

What is Claimed Is:

1. An airbag device for a vehicle having a handlebar, the airbag device comprising:
an airbag for being deployed in an area generally adjacent the handlebar; and
a retainer for the airbag with at least one of the airbag and the retainer being secured to the handlebar.
2. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein both the airbag and the retainer include mounts for being are secured to the handlebar.
3. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein the retainer includes an engaging portion that contacts the handlebar.
4. The airbag device of claim 3 wherein the retainer engaging portion has a predetermined configuration substantially complimentary to that of the handlebar to allow the engaging portion to be in substantially flush contact with the handlebar.
5. The airbag device of claim 4 wherein the predetermined configuration of the handlebar engaging portion is substantially concave to match a convex curvature of the handlebar.
6. The airbag device of claim 4 wherein the handlebar engaging portion of the retainer comprises an arcuate recess.
7. The airbag device of claim 1 in combination with the handlebar wherein the handlebar has a pair of laterally spaced and generally upwardly extending side portions, and the retainer extends between the handlebar side portions.
8. The airbag device of claim 7 wherein the retainer or the airbag include portions that extend laterally beyond the handlebar side portions.
9. The airbag device of claim 7 wherein the handlebar includes end portions extending laterally outward from upper ends of the handlebar side portions with the retainer secured to the side portions and the airbag secured to the end portions.

10. The airbag device of claim 9 wherein the retainer includes a cover spanning the handlebar side portions and extending over at least portions of the handlebar end portions.
11. The airbag device of claim 7 wherein the retainer and the airbag are disposed entirely between the handlebar side portions.
12. A restraint system for a vehicle, the restraint system comprising:
a handlebar; and
an airbag assembly including an airbag and a retainer therefor with the airbag assembly being mounted to the handlebar.
13. The restraint system of claim 12 wherein the handlebar has a generally arcuate outer surface, and the airbag retainer has a generally arcuate recess that is in close fitting engagement with the handlebar outer surface.
14. The restraint system of claim 12 wherein the handlebar has laterally spaced side portions, and the airbag retainer extends between the handlebar side portions.
15. The restraint system of claim 12 wherein both the airbag and the retainer are secured to the handlebar.
16. The restraint system of claim 15 wherein the handlebar includes laterally spaced side portions that extend upwardly and include respective end portions that extend laterally outward therefrom with the retainer secured to the side portions and the airbag including accordion fold portions secured to the end portions.
17. The restraint system of claim 12 wherein only the retainer is secured to the handlebar.
18. The restraint system of claim 17 wherein the airbag has a roll-folded configuration in the retainer.

19. The restraint system of claim 12 wherein the handlebar has a generally elongate configuration, and the retainer generally extends lengthwise along the elongate handlebar.

20. The restraint system of claim 12 including a motorcycle with the handlebar being for steering the motorcycle.